



**Minutes of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) Meeting
At the Federal Reserve Bank – Denver Branch
March 7, 2019**

Commissioner and Advisor Learning Session

For the Learning Session this month, Commissioners were invited to attend COSI Day at the Capitol, followed by a meeting with Commission Legislative Advisors at the Capitol. The meeting was facilitated by Executive Director Paccione.

I. OPENING BUSINESS

Chairman Luis Colón called the business meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

A. Attendance

Chairman Luis Colón, Vice Chairman Renny Fagan, Commissioners Maia Babbs, Mary Beth Buescher, Stephanie Donner, Cassie Gannett, Vanecia Kerr, Pardis Mahdavi, Tom McGimpsey and Monte Moses (via phone) attended the meeting.

Also in attendance were CCHE Advisory Committee members Wayne Artis, Chad Marturano, Misti Ruthven, Christina Powell, Mark Cavanaugh, Rep. Julie McCluskie, and Sen. Tammy Story.

B. Welcome Remarks

Ms. Erin O. Davis, Senior Public Affairs Specialist at the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, Denver Branch welcomed the group and presented information about the Federal Reserve Bank. She explained how to connect with and receive information about the resources the bank has to offer.

C. Minutes

Commissioner McGimpsey moved to approve the minutes of the Feb. 7, 2019 CCHE meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mahdavi and passed with Commissioner Donner abstaining.

D. Chair, Vice Chair, Commissioners and Advisors Reports

- Chairman Colon welcomed newly appointed Commissioner Donner. Commissioner Donner then introduced herself and outlined her extensive resume and experience as an attorney. Chairman Colon reported on meetings held over the last month regarding the funding formula review. These conversations will continue to find the right approach for Colorado.
- Commissioner Babbs reported that the Fiscal Affairs & Audit Committee has held two meetings in the past month with the primary focus being the funding allocation review and preparation for the CDHE meeting with CFOs and CEOs of the higher ed institutions across the state. The committee also had conversations about the scoring criteria for capital construction and a review of

that process. Financial aid allocations and the potential guardrails placed previously have been reviewed and will be discussed later in this meeting.

- Mr. Mark Cavanaugh reported that the Speaker of the House will be moving forward with a referred measure to allow us to do a permanent “de-Brucing” this fall. There will be two components: a referred measure and a piece of legislation that talks about the allocation. Mr. Cavanaugh indicated that higher education could see an additional source of funding if these measures pass. He encouraged the department to reach out and suggested that the Colorado Commission on Higher Education should consider how they might support this effort as well.

E. Executive Director Report

- Executive Director Paccione reported that there are 65 education bills being considered this session. The department is tracking all these bills—particularly those that pertain to higher education.
- Executive Director Paccione welcomed Commissioner Donner.
- She reported that the department is working on a draft definition of affordability and requested input from the governor’s office and other stakeholders. The goal is to come to a firm definition of affordability since that is one of our key objectives in the master plan. Cost containment is a key interest of the Governor, so the two will be considered together.
- Yesterday, Commissioners Fagan and Buescher attended the House Education Committee hearing for Senate Bill 95. That’s the five-year funding formula review bill that passed out of the commission, out of the committee unamended unanimously and is on to the appropriations committee.
- Dr. Paccione reported on the meeting of CEOs and CFOs to discuss the funding formula and ways to come to some agreement regarding minor adjustments that could be made to preserve that 121 off the top to make sure that tuition is held flat for this year. There was also an agreement to keep the 13 percent overall for each institution.
- She reported that there is an agreement between the department and the institutions that they inform the department when they are going to as the JBC for their special projects. CMU is looking at asking for their distribution of \$1.6 million for the community college.
- The JBC will conduct figure setting for our budget request on Tuesday. Dr. Paccione has been meeting with the JBC members and is confident that we will get that request of the 13 percent increase in funding including the investments in need-based financial aid, teacher loan forgiveness and concurrent enrollment.
- Dr. Paccione reported on visits to UNC, Metro, and Johnson & Wales University Denver. She will also pursue additional visits to other private institutions, since they are an important part of the higher education conversation as well.

II. Consent Items

- A. Recommend Approval of Middle School Math Endorsement at University of Colorado, Colorado Springs – Dr. Brittany Lane**
- B. Recommend Approval of Middle School Math Endorsement at Relay Graduate School of Education – Dr. Brittany Lane**
- C. Recommend Approval of Early Childhood Education Endorsement at Colorado State University, Pueblo - Dr. Brittany Lane**
- D. Recommend Approval of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Education at University of Denver – Dr. Brittany Lane**
- E. Recommend Reauthorization of Educator Preparation Programs at University of Northern Colorado - Dr. Brittany Lane**
- F. Recommend Reauthorization of Educator Preparation Programs at Denver College of Nursing - Dr. Brittany Lane**
- G. Recommend Approval of Non-Monetary Supplemental of University of Northern Colorado Campus Commons Project – Lauren Lopez**
- H. Degree Authorization Act – Recommendation for Renewal of Authorization for Ashford University as a Place of Business – Heather DeLange**

Commissioner McGimpsey moved to approve consent items A through H. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Fagan and unanimously passed.

III. Action Items

A. Request for Waivers from GT-Pathways Requirements for Bachelor of Science in Nursing Programs at Select Colorado Community College System Institutions – Dr. Chris Rasmussen presented recommended actions in response to a request from the Colorado Community College System (CCCS) for a waiver from GT Pathways curricular requirements for BSN programs under development at seven campuses. Following discussion at the February Commission meeting, wherein Commissioners discussed the option of a limited versus a blanket waiver of GT Pathways, Dr. Rasmussen recommended that the Commission:

- Approve a limited waiver of GT Pathways curriculum requirements for the Bachelor of Science in Nursing completion degree programs offered by individual institutions in the Colorado Community College System;
- Direct the Department to develop and enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Colorado Community College System on the terms of the waiver, including GT Pathways course distribution requirements, waiver duration and verification processes;
- Affirm the Department’s proposed process for evaluating future requests from institutions or systems for waivers from GT Pathways requirements.

Dr. Rasmussen proposed that the MOU would include allowing only one course in Arts & Humanities rather than two; waiving the History course requirement; granting the limited waiver for a five-year period, at which point it would be reviewed; and allowing

CDHE to request verification of compliance at any time. In discussion, concerns were raised about waiving the History course. It was also suggested that: CCCS report annually on its compliance with the terms of an MOU; that any future GT Pathways waiver requests come to the Commission as regular action items, and not as consent items; and that the GT Pathways waiver process should be added to CCHE Policy, I, L: Statewide Transfer and GT Pathways Policy.

Commissioner McGimpsey motioned to accept the staff's recommendations and provide guidance to the staff (when developing the Memorandum of Understanding) to 1) maintain the history course requirement; and 2) require that the Colorado Community College System provide a written report annually on their compliance (with the Memorandum of Understanding). Commissioner Buescher seconded. The motion passed on a 7-3 vote.

B. Revisions to CCHE Policy I, Part L: Statewide Transfer and GT Pathways –

Dr. Chris Rasmussen presented proposed revisions to the CCHE Policy I, Part L: Statewide Transfer and GT Pathways Policy, which were introduced to the Commission at its February meeting. The policy was last revised in April 2014. The primary purpose of the proposed revisions is to incorporate 2018 statutory changes regarding institutional obligations in transfer. Additional purposes are to clarify GT Pathways categories, competencies, and requirements, and to better align the policy with other changes in statute and CCHE policies over the past five years, including the CCHE Prior Learning Assessment policy. Dr. Rasmussen indicated that no additional proposed revisions were made to the policy following the Commission's discussion at the February CCHE meeting.

Commissioner Buescher moved that the Commission approve revisions to CCHE Policy I, Part L: Statewide Transfer and GT Pathways Policy. Commissioner Mahdavi seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Recommendation to Approve Proposed Revisions to CCHE Policy I, Part J Degree Authorization Act – Ms. Heather Delange, Director of the Office of Private Postsecondary Education, presented proposed revisions to CCHE policy Section I, Part J. Ms. Delange provided an overview of the proposed revisions.

Commissioner McGimpsey moved to approve the revisions. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gannett and passed with Commissioner Mahdavi abstaining.

C. Discussion Items

A. Legislative Update – Chloe Mugg, Legislative Liaison, provided Commissioners with an update on the Department's 2019 Legislative Agenda and Budget items. In addition, Ms. Mugg highlighted a number of bills impacting higher education that are currently in the legislative process.

B. FY 2019-20 Need Based Financial Aid Allocation Models - Emily Burns, Lead Finance Analyst led a discussion of the FY 2019-20 Need-Based Financial aid Allocation model. Various guardrail scenarios were discussed including -2% +18%, -5%+15% and -5%+10%. Various commissioners and advisors had questions regarding

the methodology used to determine allocations. Staff explained that the input data is derived from Pell-eligible full-time equivalent students, as well as the percentage increased that was requested to financial aid as part of the Governor's November 1 Budget Request. Staff also noted that Metropolitan State University of Denver was resubmitting data, so the allocations were likely to change pending the new data submission.

- C. Update On Funding Formula Review Process** –Inta Morris, COO & CFO, Jason Schrock, Senior Director of Finance, Emily Burns, Lead Finance Analyst, and Emma Fedorchuk, Budget and Finance Analyst, CDHE discussed the funding formula review process involving the department and the governing boards with regard to the FY20 budget. Staff noted that the one-on-one discussions with institutions offered an opportunity for newly appointed Executive Director Angie Paccione to get to know presidents and institutions while learning about some of the challenges they each see with the current formula. The process culminated with a general agreement that maintaining flat tuition is the priority outcome for this year and to do so, all institutions should receive an approximate 13 percent increase through the funding formula for the FY 2019-20 budget.

Department staff discussed the challenges and complexity of the funding formula, such as the differences and varying needs of institutions, institutional concerns about being underfunded through the formula and the structure of the model, in which adjustments that benefit one institution come at the expense of another. Staff noted the difficulty in aligning these needs and requirements but agreed with Commissioner interest in simplifying the formula and/or better aligning the outcomes part of the formula with master plan goals.

Commissioners expressed a strong interest in continuing the review of the formula over the summer. Department staff proposed potential next steps for formula review and indicated it will update the commission after the current budget goes through the legislature.

D. Written Reports

- a. **Talent Pipeline Report** – Dr. Brandon McReynolds presented on the 2018 Talent Pipeline Report (TPR), which is written by the Colorado Workforce Development Council in conjunction with public and private partners. The report examined the current state of the Colorado labor market, highlights “Top Jobs,” and discusses promising practices across Colorado’s talent development system. The major conclusions of the presentation were:
- Colorado ranks in the top ten states in labor participation.
 - Over the next decade, Colorado will see a flat high school completion, and many districts will see decreases in high school attainment due to low birthrates.
 - Colorado must continue to invest in programs that meet individuals where they are.
- With a looming recession, it is important for Colorado to invest in education and workforce now to build the infrastructure that will be needed for the state to meet future talent demands.

- b. **Postsecondary Success of the Class of 2017** – Presentation of this report by Katie Zaback and Bradley Tugan was postponed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:17pm.